IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An image forming method comprising steps of:

forming a latent image on a latent image retaining body;

developing the latent image on the latent image retaining body using a liquid developer, the liquid developer comprising an electrically insulating solvent and a plurality of toner particles, each comprising a resin particle non-soluble in the electrically insulating solvent and colorant particles, the toner particles comprising a surface portion and an inside portion, a first density of the colorant particles per unit volume of the resin particle at the surface portion being larger than a second density of the colorant particles per unit volume of the resin particle at the inside portion, and

transferring an image developed on the latent image retaining body to an intermediate transfer body by applying a shear pressure to an image developed on the latent image retaining body.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of claim 17, wherein the transferring step comprises:

applying a pressure of 0.5 kg/cm^2 to 50 kg/cm^2 from the latent image retaining body to the intermediate transfer body at a transfer station during the transfer step with a surface of the intermediate transfer body at the transfer station moved faster or slower than a moving speed of surface of the latent image retaining body at the transfer station during the transfer step.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein a surface speed of the intermediate transfer body at the transfer station ranges from about 80 % to about 99% or from about 101 % to about 120 % of a surface speed of the latent image retaining body at the transfer station.

Claim 20 (New): The method of claim 17, wherein the colorant particles are selected from the group consisting of black, yellow, red, vermillion, blue, and green particles, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 21 (New): The method of claim 17, wherein a coverage rate of the surface of the resin particle by the colorant particles is 3.5% or more.

Claim 22 (New): The method of claim 17, wherein the resin particle has a glass transition temperature of not less than room temperature.

Claim 23 (New): The method of claim 17, wherein the colorant particles are selectively formed on a surface of the resin particle.

Claim 24 (New): The method of claim 17, wherein the surface portion has a thickness of from about 10 nm to 1 μm.

Claim 25 (New): The method of claim 17, wherein the surface portion of the toner particle has a thickness of about three times as the average diameter of the colorant particles, and the inside portion of the toner particle is the rest of the toner particle other than the surface portion.

Claim 26 (New): The method of claim 17, wherein the colorant particles are either black or a single color.

Claim 27 (New): The method of claim 17, wherein the colorant particles comprise pigments.

Claim 28 (New): The method of claim 17, additionally comprising, after the transferring step, transferring the image on the intermediate transfer body to a recording medium by applying pressure, wherein the speed of the intermediate transfer body and of a roller carrying the recording medium is the same.

Claim 29 (New): An image forming method comprising steps of:

forming a latent image on a latent image retaining body;

developing the latent image on the latent image retaining body using a liquid developer, the liquid developer comprising an electrically insulating solvent and a plurality of toner particles, each comprising a resin particle non-soluble in the electrically insulating solvent and colorant particles, the toner particles comprising a surface portion and an inside portion, a first density of the colorant particles per unit volume of the resin particle at the surface portion being larger than a second density of the colorant particles per unit volume of the resin particle at the inside portion, and

transferring an image developed on the latent image retaining body to an intermediate transfer body at a transfer station by moving a surface of the intermediate transfer body at the transfer station faster or slower than a moving speed of surface of the latent image retaining body at the transfer station during the transfer step.

Claim 30 (New): The method of claim 29, wherein the surface speed of the ntermediate transfer body at the transfer station ranges about 80 % to about 99 % or an about 101 % to about 120 % of the moving speed of surface of the latent image retaining body at the transfer station.

Claim 31 (New): The method of claim 29, wherein a coverage rate of the surface of the resin particle by the colorant particles is 3.5 % or more.

Claim 32 (New): The method of claim 29, wherein the resin particles have a glass ransition temperature of not less than room temperature.

Claim 33 (New): The method of claim 29, wherein the colorant particles are selectively formed on a surface of the resin particle.

Claim 34 (New): The method of claim 29, wherein the surface portion has a thickness of from about 10 nm to 1 μm.

Claim 35 (New): The method of claim 29, wherein the surface portion of the toner particle has a thickness of about three times as the average diameter of the colorant particles, and the inside portion of the toner particle is the rest of the toner particle other than the surface portion.

Claim 36 (New): The method of claim 30, further comprising,

after the transferring step, transferring the image on the intermediate transfer body to a recording medium by applying pressure, wherein the speed of the intermediate transfer body and of a roller carrying the recording medium is the same.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

The specification has been amended to correct reference to the proper figure.

Claim 17 has been amended to correct an obvious error of omission.

New Claims 20-36 have been added. Claims 20-27 are analogous to claims allowed in the parent application, and further define the developer. Claim 28 is supported in the specification at page 13, lines 6-9 and 18-19, and page 15, lines 15-16. Claim 29 is drawn to the differences in moving speed embodiment of Claim 18. Claims 30-36 are analogous to Claims 19, 21-25 and 28, respectively.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 17-36 are now pending in the application.